

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 213990

16

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAGE NAKHON PHNOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

UNCLAS STATE 213990

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PAGE 02 STATE 213990

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 30, 1973 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SCHANBERG WRITES OF AMEMBASSY PP BRIEFING LAST WEEK AT WHICH GAO REPORT DISCUSSED. REPORT CHARGED MEDT PERSONNEL WITH ACTING IN VIOLATION OF COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT BY ADVISING ON CHANGES IN FANK FORCE STRUCTURE, ADVISING AND ASSISTING ON CONTINGENCY PLANS, PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON LOGISTICS, GIVING INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE ON US MATERIEL AND HELPING FANK OPERATE ITS HQ AND SUPPLY SYSTEM. AT BRIEFING, US OFFICIAL DENIED MEDT HAD GONE BEYOND STATUTORY FUNCTION, SAYING THAT GAO AND EMBASSY PHILOSOPHIES DIFFER: GAO SEES PROGRAM AS PHYSICAL DELIVERY OF GOODS ONLY; AMEMBASSY BELIEVES IT HAS OBLIGATION TO SEE THAT EQUIPMENT DELIVERED IS PUT TO USE. ONLY BROAD THEMES OF GAO REPORT WERE ADDRESSED, EMBASSY OFFICIALS DECLINED COMMENT ON SPECIFICS, SAYING SUCH COMMENT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM WASHINGTON. SCHANBERG SAYS FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND MILITARY ATTACHES SYMPATHIZE WITH EMBASSY'S ARGUMENT THAT DELIVERY WITHOUT CHECKS WOULD BE INVITATION TO WASTE AND CORRUPTION, AND AGREE THAT MILITARY ADVISERS AS CONVENTIONALLY DEFINED IN INDOCHINA - MEN ASSIGNED TO COMBAT UNITS - DO NOT EXIST IN CAMBODIA. BUT SAME OBSERVERS ADD THAT

EMBASSY HAS CONSISTENTLY PERFORMED FUNCTIONS UNRELATED TO EQUIPMENT DELIVERY, SUCH AS COORDINATING AND DIRECTING TACTICAL AIR STRIKES, AT FIRST DIRECTLY AND LATER BY SUPERVISING KHMERS, AND IN THE KOMPONG CHAM BATTLE WHEN MEDT CHIEF GAVE DIRECT ADVICE TO FANK CHIEF OF STAFF ON STRATEGY AND TACTICS. SCHANBERG QUOTES RELIABLE SOURCES THAT IN GENERAL US MEDT AND DAO OFFICERS VISIT FIELD UNITS TO GATHER INFO ON EQUIPMENT LOSSES OR THE STATE OF FIGHTING THOUGH THEY SOMETIMES MAKE INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS WHEN ASKED BY LOCAL COMMANDERS (NYT).

2. LON NOL OPENS 29 PREFABS, DONATED BY JAPAN AT COST OF 800,000 DOLLARS, AT REFUGEE CAMP 6 MILES SOUTH OF PP (AP, SUN; UPI, NYT; PHINQ). IN SPEECH BEFORE 2000 UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 213990

AT OPENING CEREMONY, HE SAYS PASSAGE OF ANY UN RESOLUTION SEATING GRUNK IN PLACE OF GKR WOULD CAUSE LOSS OF ALL HOPE OF BRINGING PEACE TO CAMBODIA AND THREATEN SECURITY OF WHOLE REGION (PHINQ).

3. THREE TERRORIST GRENADE BLASTS, INCLUDING ONE IN CROWDED RESTAURANT, WOUND 28 (OR 33) IN PP (WP; UPI, NYT; PHINQ; AP, SUN). FIELD REPORTS SAY HUNDREDS OF KI HAVE CROSSED TONLE SAP RIVER SINCE LATEST ROUTE 5 CUT MADE SUNDAY IN AREA 12 TO 16 MILES NW OF PP WHERE ENEMY GAINS INITIATIVE, ASSAULTS 3 GKR POSITIONS AND STALLS FANK RELIEF DRIVE (CSM; AP, SUN; PHINQ).

4. THIEU SAYS COMMUNISTS PLAN TO START NEW WAR WHILE

GVN DOING ALL IT CAN TO REBUILD NATION (CSM). THIEU IN SPEECH URGES VN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR TO KEEP VIGILANT AGAINST COMMUNISM (PHINQ).

5. WILLIAMS FROM SAIGON REPORTS ARVN SAYS IT KILLED 37 VC IN 2 BATTLES IN DELTA PROVINCES WHERE BOTH SIDES FIGHT FOR RICE CROP. GVN NEEDS RICE TO FEED SAIGON AND WANTS TO CUT OFF COMMUNIST SUPPLIES. VC REPORTEDLY PAYING EXORBITANT PRICES TO BUY AS MUCH RICE AS POSSIBLE IN GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS. WILLIAMS ALSO QUOTES ARVN SPOKESMAN THAT GVN EXPECTS RENEWED COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE AT END '73 OR IN EARLY '74 BUT INTELLIGENCE SOURCES ARE SO FAR UNABLE TO GUAGE ITS EXTENT AND PURPOSE (REUTER).

6. ARVN SPOKESMAN STATES COMMUNISTS KILL 11 IN GVN MILITIA PLATOON IN NIGHT ATTACK 64 MILES NE OF SAIGON. ALSO SAYS ARVN SUFFERED 32 KIA AND 43 WIA IN DELTA BATTLE LAST WED. WHERE 80 ENEMY DIED; ARVN LOSSES SAID TO BE HEAVIEST IN DELTA FIGHTING SINCE C-F (UPI, NYT). SVN COMMAND SPOKESMAN REPORTS SHARP INCREASE IN VC/NVA TRUCE VIOLATIONS, SAYS 71 COMMUNISTS, 33 ARVN AND 14

CIVILIANS KIA IN PAST DAY IN SERIES OF SHELLINGS, MININGS, FIGHTS AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS (PHINQ).

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 213990

US PACIFIC FLEET SHIFT

7. DOD ANNOUNCED MONDAY THAT CARRIER HANCOCK, 5 DESTROYERS AND OILER FROM 7TH FLEET BEING DISPATCHED FROM SEA WATERS THROUGH STRAIT OF MALACCA TO INDIAN OCEAN AS PART OF LAST WEEK'S "ALERTING PROCEDURES" RESPONSE TO SOVIET MIDEAST MOVES (NYDN'S VOLZ; REUTER, CHITRIB; AP, PHINQ). LATER IN DAY, FRIEDHEIM EXPLAINED SHIFT AS PERIODIC DEMONSTRATION OF SEAPOWER, UNRELATED TO SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN FLEET MOVEMENTS (NYT'S FINNEY; WP'S GETLER; SUN'S CORDDRY).

CHINA

8. CSM'S ELLIS NOTES SUGGESTION BY LESTER BROWN OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THAT SINO-US SOYBEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE BE CREATED. FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, DEMAND IS OUTSTRIPPING SUPPLY AND NEITHER HAS MADE BREAKTHROUGH IN YIELD PER ACRE LIKE THAT ACHIEVED FOR MOST OTHER IMPORTANT CROPS. SEN. HUMPHREY DRAFTS LEGISLATION TO EFFECT BROWN'S PROPOSAL, AND GOLD KIST RESEARCH CENTER OF LITHONIA GA., DESCRIBING ITSELF AS ONE OF FEW COMMERCIAL FIRMS SUPPORTING SOYBEAN RESEARCH, HAS TOLD BROWN IT WOULD FREELY EXCHANGE BREEDING MATERIALS AND INFO WITH PRC. CHAIRMAN OF IOWA STATE U AGRONOMY DEPT. SAYS UNIVERSITY TEAM HAS BEEN TRYING FOR YEAR TO VISIT PRC FOR GERM PLASM, BUT SO FAR ITS EFFORT STALLED BY "PROCEDURAL

MATTERS BEYOND OUR CONTROL."

AUSTRALIA

9. WHITLAM ARRIVES IN PEKING OCT. 31 FOR 5-DAY VISIT TO SYMBOLIZE NEW DIRECTION OF GOA FOREIGN POLICY SINCE ALP CAME TO POWER, REPORTS REUTER'S SHARP FROM PEKING. WHITLAM LAST VISITED CHINA IN 1971 ACCOMPANIED BY PRESENT GOA AMBASSADOR FITZGERALD, "WHO HAS SWIFTLY MADE A MARK AS ONE OF THE BEST-INFORMED ENVOYS" THERE. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY WHITLAM ANXIOUS THAT THIS VISIT YIELD MORE THAN EXCHANGE OF POLITE GENERALITIES. HOWEVER, OBSERVERS NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT MANY STRIDENTLY ANTI-CANBERRA POLITICAL PAMPHLETS ISSUED IN RECENT YEARS BY AUSSIE CP ARE STILL ON SALE IN PEKING BOOKSTORES -- THEIR PRESENCE SERVING AS REMINDER OF PEKING'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 213990

TO COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS IN NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH WHICH PRC HAS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND AS INDICATION THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL ISSUES ON WHICH PRC AND GOA UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE MUCH AGREEMENT. ONE OF THESE LIKELY TO BE CHINA'S NUCLEAR POLICY.

KOREA

10. KIM DAE-JUNG DECLARES HE FEELS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACTIVITIES; INTENDS GOING TO US WITH FAMILY SOON TO ACCEPT OFFER OF VISITING FELLOWSHIP AT HARVARD. INSISTS HE MADE NO DEAL WITH ROKG NOT TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS AGAIN, AS PRICE FOR RELEASE FROM HOUSE ARREST. FORNMINISTRY SAYS KIM WILL BE "TREATED LIKE ANYONE ELSE" WHEN HE APPLIES FOR EXIT VISA (NYT, PHINQ). KIM TELLS CSM'S POND HE WILL NOT ENGAGE IN POLITICS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, SINCE THAT WOULD MEAN COLLABORATION WITH GOVT.; BUT HE HAS NOT RENOUNCED POLITICS. FROM JAPAN'S POINT OF VIEW, SAYS WP'S OBERDORFER (FROM SEOUL), KIM'S RELEASE FROM HOUSE ARREST IS FIRST STEP ALONG ROAD TOWARD RESTORATION OF WARM RELATIONS WITH ROK. NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS BETWEEN THEM REGARDING FURTHER AND CONCLUSIVE STEPS, INCLUDING THORNY PROBLEM OF ROK ADMISSION OF OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN KIM'S KIDNAPPING.

11. KIM IL SUNG ACCUSES SK LEADERS OF BREAKING 1972 AGREEMENT TO WORK FOR KOREAN UNIFICATION; CALLS ON SK PEOPLE TO "STRUGGLE" AGAINST PARK'S POLICY SUPPORTING ADMISSION OF 2 SEPARATE KOREAS TO UN (UPI, NYDN, WP).

JAPAN

12. GEORGE BALL SAYS PURCHASING POWER OF JAPANESE

COMPANY DESIRING INVEST IN US HAS INCREASED BY 116-117 PERCENT SINCE 1968; TELLS JAPANESE AND OTHER EXECUTIVES ATTENDING YAMAICHI INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INVESTING IN US THAT SUCH OPPORTUNITY UNLIKELY TO ARISE AGAIN. NYU PROF. COHEN ADVISES JAPANESE INVESTORS THAT THEY WILL GET BETTER RECEPTION BY AVOIDING UNDUE CONCENTRATION IN HAWAII AND CALIFORNIA AND INVESTING INSTEAD IN SOUTH UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 213990

OR MIDWEST (JOC). MITSUI PRES. SAYS FIRM INTENDS CAREFULLY TO ORCHESTRATE ITS US INVESTMENTS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH US INDUSTRIALISTS; MITSUI ALSO HAS NO INTENTION TO TAKE OVER EXISTING US FIRMS OR PLACE JAPANESE AS PRESIDENTS OF US COMPANIES. ADDS, IN JOC INTERVIEW, THAT MITSUI PLANS AVOID INVESTMENTS IN US LEISURE TIME INDUSTRIES SUCH AS HOTELS AND RESORTS AND WILL NOT ENGAGE IN "SPECULATIVE" REAL-ESTATE VENTURES. CHITRIB REPORTS YAMAICHI INTERNATIONAL WILL BE FIRST JAPANESE SECURITIES FIRM TO LOCATE IN MIDWEST, OPENING CHICAGO OFFICE WEDNESDAY.

13. GOJ ANNOUNCES 5-DAY CONFERENCE OF JAPAN, US AND CANADA ON FISHERIES PROBLEMS IN N. PACIFIC WILL OPEN IN TOKYO NOV. 5 (WP). AFP REPORTS JAPANESE SHIPBUILDERS LAUNCHED TOTAL OF 113 OCEANGOING SHIPS WITH GROSS TONNAGE OF 7,046 MILLION TONS DURING PERIOD APRIL THROUGH SEPT. THIS CONSTITUTES 49.6 PERCENT OF NEW TONNAGE LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT WORLD, SAYS GOJ TRANSPORT MINISTRY (WP). 14. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS JAPANESE DOCKERS CONTINUING REFUSAL TO HANDLE CARGOES AT 7 MAJOR PORTS DURING LATE NIGHT HOURS. BUT LOCAL UNIONS INTERPRETING STRIKE ACTION IN THEIR OWN WAY, WITH MANY VESSELS RECEIVING FULL CARGO HANDLING SERVICES.

15. USDA MAGAZINE SAYS DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN'S DOMESTIC CITRUS JUICE MARKET APPEARS MOST LIKELY SOLUTION TO COUNTRY'S OVERWHELMING MIKAN ORANGE SURPLUS, PROVIDED JAPANESE PRODUCERS CAN GET MORE US ORANGE JUICE TO BLEND WITH MIKAN PRODUCT. JAPANESE MARKET FOR US ORANGE JUICE IS SEVERELY RESTRICTED BY IMPORT QUOTAS, BUT WITHOUT ADDITION OF SWEETER-TASTING US JUICE, JAPANESE PRODUCT TOO ACIDIC AND GENERALLY UNAPPEALING (JOC).

16. AFTER 2-DAY TOKYO MINISTERIAL MEETING, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA AGREE TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE DISCUSSIONS ON WIDE-RANGING TREATY TO COVER FUTURE RELATIONS. WILL INITIATE REGULAR DISCUSSIONS ON SUPPLY AND DEMAND POSITION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO ENSURE STABLE, LONG-TERM SUPPLY TO JAPAN. COMMUNIQUE SAYS THEY RECOGNIZE HIGH LEVEL OF INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THEIR ECONOMIES AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 213990

ACKNOWLEDGE ESSENTIAL THAT SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION MUST CONTINUE TO GOVERN THEIR RELATIONS (REUTER).

INDONESIA

17. GOI ANNOUNCES 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN OIL PRICES, EFFECTIVE SHORTLY. PERTAMINA SPOKESMAN SAYS INCREASE NOT LINKED TO RECENT MIDEAST CUT IN OIL EXPORTS TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES, BUT IS INTENDED TO BOOST REVENUE (REUTER).

18. EARLIER, AP'S FRED HOFFMAN CITED US INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THOUGH LARGELY MOSLEM, INDONESIA HAS KEPT ITS SUPPORT OF ARABS AT LOW KEY DURING ME WAR AND MAY MAKE BID TO HELP SOLVE US POTENTIAL PETROLEUM SHORTAGE. THESE SOURCES SAY THEY BELIEVE GOI, EAGER TO DEVELOP ITS PETROLEUM RESOURCES, MIGHT TAKE OPPORTUNITY

PRESENTED BY ARAB REDUCTION OF OIL SHIPMENTS TO US TO OFFER US GREATER ACCESS TO ITS OIL IN RETURN FOR FINANCING HELP. SOURCES ALSO NOTE THAT INCOME FROM OIL EXPORTS REPRESENTS MORE THAN HALF INDONESIA'S FOREIGN EARNINGS. ONLY 16 PERCENT OF INDONESIA'S OIL PRODUCTION HAS BEEN GOING TO US; GREAT BULK, ABOUT 70 PERCENT, TO JAPAN (CSM; S-N, OCT. 29).

THAILAND

19. NYT'S CLARITY CITES SOURCES CLOSE TO RTG AS SAYING NEW GOVT. INTENDS TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PRC AND NVN. THEY SAY THAILAND EXPECTED TO EXPAND TRADE AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES WITH CHINA IN NEXT FEW MONTHS AND THAT CHINA AGREED TO TRY IMPROVE THAI-NVN RELATIONS. LITTLE EXPECTATION, HOWEVER, THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WOULD SOON BE MADE BETWEEN THAI AND NVN OR THAT THAI AND CHINESE APPROACHING "DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION". NOTES THAT LAST MONTH DISCUSSIONS WERE SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN NY BETWEEN CHAO KUAN-UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 213990

HUA AND CHATCHAI. HOW PRC MIGHT IMPROVE BANGKOK-HANOI RELATIONS WAS NOT DISCLOSED, BUT ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT WOULD NECESSARILY INVOLVE WITHDRAWAL OF NVA FROM SVN, CAMBODIA AND LAOS AND REMOVAL OF US AIR BASES IN THAILAND - PROSPECTS THAT ANALYSTS OF ASIAN AFFAIRS DO NOT CONSIDER IMMINENT. AT ISSUE ALSO IS PRESENCE OF ABOUT 40,000 ETHNIC NVN CIVILIANS SETTLED IN NE THAILAND. THAI CONSIDER THEM SUPPORTERS OF COMMUNIST INSURGENCY AND WANT HANOI TO TAKE THEM BACK.

SINGAPORE

20. GOS DECIDES NOT TO PLAY HOST OF 1978 ASIAN GAMES FOR FINANCIAL AND OTHER REASONS. SOURCES CLOSE TO RULING SPORTS ORGANIZATION SAY SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOR WOULD PREVENT CONSTRUCTION OF NEEDED FACILITIES IN TIME (AP, WP).
COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

21. GLOBE'S CROCKER SNOW IN MANILA (OCT. 28)
REVIEWS 13 MONTHS OF MARTIAL LAW. FINDS FILS -RESISTANT TO THE PRINCIPLE, BUT PLEASED WITH THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS." MARTIAL LAW WAS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A NATURAL TARGET FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES TO RALLY THE DISAFFECTED MASSES, BUT IT HASN'T WORKED OUT THAT WAY. MAOIST REVOLUTIONARIES IN PROVINCES NORTHEAST OF MANILA HAVE BEEN PUSHED FAR UNDERGROUND, SPORADIC FIGHTING WITH MOSLEM SECESSIONISTS HAS SUBSIDED, AND THE COUNTRY IS BEGINNING TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND TOURISM AS NEVER BEFORE. BUT MANY CHANGES AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED ONLY AT THE COST OF SUSPENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND RESTRICTING CIVIL LIBERTIES. IT IS STILL ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN ASIA, AND DESPITE HIGH DECLARATIONS OF MARCOS ABOUT UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY'S "400", THE GAP BETWEEN THE FEW VERY RICH AND THE MASS OF THE VERY POOR SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF NARROWING SIGNIFICANTLY. PERCEIVES US-PHIL RELATIONSHIP CHANGING IN THE WAKE OF VN, NOTING THAT APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, WHO IS REGARDED AS A "WASHINGTON HEAVYWEIGHT," IS SYMBOLIC OF FACT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 213990

THAT THE US REGARDS THE ISLANDS WITH NEW IMPORTANCE IN THE POST-VN PERIOD. SULLIVAN HAS "TWO SENSITIVE THINGS TO RENEGOTIATE": LAUREL-LANGLEY AND MBA. NEITHER TRADE NOR THE BASE MATTER SHOULD PROVE TOO DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. WITH CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BASED ON MANILA'S ECONOMIC AMBITIONS AND WASHINGTON'S DESIRE TO KEEP A SOLID, ENGLISH-SPEAKING FOOTHOLD IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, "AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN SHOULD HAVE LITTLE USE FOR HIS SHARPEST NEGOTIATING SKILLS." AFTER THE RELATIVE SUCCESS OF MARTIAL LAW IN ITS FIRST YEAR, THE NEW CONFIDENCE OF MARCOS AND HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE FINAL AGREEMENTS.

22 FLETCHER SCHOOL'S W. SCOTT THOMPSON (GLOBE OCT. 28)
REVIEWSCIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THAI STUDENT COUP, NOTING THAT MOST OBSERVERS EXPECTED REBELLION FROM YOUNG TURKS FROM WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS RATHER

THAN FROM THE NEWEST AND OLDEST ELEMENTS IN THAI POWER STRUCTURE - STUDENTS AND THE KING. REMARKABLE GROWTH OF STUDENT POWER MUST BE SEEN AGAINST BACKGROUND OF TRADITIONAL THAI POLICY OF "BOTTLENECKING" THE FLOW OF STUDENTS INTO THE POWER STRUCTURE; ONLY AS MANY STUDENTS WERE EDUCATED AS COULD BE ABSORBED IN RECENT YEARS THE GREAT EXPANSION IN THE UNIVERSITIES

AND THE VAST INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RETURNING FROM ABROAD BROUGHT THE NUMBER UP TO A CRITICAL MASS OF POWER. THE KING, LIKE THE STUDENTS, HAS ALSO COME A LONG WAY RECENTLY. THE THANOM-PRAPHAT REGIME TRIED TO USE THE KING TO LEGITIMIZE THEIR POWER WHILE CHECKING THE GROWTH OF HIS INFLUENCE, BUT HE QUIETLY BUILT HIS PERSONAL FOLLOWING TO ADD TO THE REMARKABLE POPULARITY THE THRONE HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED. THOMPSON FEELS THAT CONTROL OVER ARMY IS CRITICAL TO NEW REGIME, AND CONTENDS THAT UNLESS STUDENT POWER AND NATIONAL SENTIMENT CAN EFFECT A CHECK ON THE ARMY, GEN. KRIT, WHO PLAYED KEY ROLE IN KEEPING ARMY FROM INTERVENING IN COUP, MIGHT STEP INTO A POSITION OF FORMAL POWER AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT MISSTEPS IN ANY AREA. INDICATES THAT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 213990

AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND MAY PROVE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE US IN THE SHORT RUN; BUT THINKS COUP CAN ONLY PROVE BENEFICIAL IN THE LONG RUN, AS THERE IS SOLID BASIS FOR A RELATIONSHIP FOUNDED ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. OBSERVES THAILAND HAVING OVERWHELMING PROBLEMS WITH INSURGENCY, WHICH COMPOUNDED BY GENERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MALAISE.

23. LAT'S ELEGANT (OCT. 28) IN HONG KONG FRUCTIFIES OUR KNOWLEDGE OF PRC EFFORTS TO CHECK POPULATION GROWTH, IN FOUR COLUMN-PAGES. NOTES THAT WHILE PRC LEADERSHIP FORMERLY EQUIVOCATED ON BIRTH CONTROL, IT FELT COMPELLED TO TAKE ALL-OUT ACTION THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF FOOD SHORTAGES, SOCIAL TENSIONS, LACK OF JOBS, URBAN ELEPHANTIASIS, AND EVEN DEFENSE NEEDS. PRC TARGET IS TO REDUCE ANNUAL RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE TO ONE PERCENT, BUT THIS WOULD STILL MEAN 8 TO 8.5 MILLION NEW MOUTHS EACH YEAR. NEW SLOGAN IS: "ONE CHILD IS TOO FEW, TWO CHILDREN ARE JUST RIGHT, BUT THREE ARE A MAJOR ERROR." DESPITE SEVERE SANCTIONS AGAINST ANY FAMILY HAVING A THIRD CHILD, ELEGANT SEES POPULAR RECALCITRANCE BASED ON OLD MORALITY AND FOLK BELIEF NULLIFYING BIRTH CONTROL CAMPAIGN. MAKES OBSERVATION THAT PE APPEARS IN THE SHORT TERM TO HAVE ACCEPTED MALTHUSIAN THESIS WHILE STILL OFFICIALLY ADHERING TO MARXIST-LENINIST

THESIS THAT THE EARTH'S RESOURCES, INTELLIGENTLY AND
EQUITABLY EXPLOITED BY "SOCIALIST" LABOR,

CAN SUPPORT AN ALMOST INFINITE NUMBER OF
PEOPLE. PEKING SAYS IT WANTS TO PLAN POPULATION
INCREASE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN

MERELY TO CONTROL BIRTHS.

24. LAT'S DAVID LAMB (OCT. 28) IN SYDNEY WRITES
ABOUT CULTURE AND ARTS SPRINGING TO LIFE IN AUSTRALIA,
THE LAND ITS LEADING POET ONCE CALLED "THE ARABIAN
DESERT OF THE MIND." ATTRIBUTES RESTORATION OF
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 213990

CREATIVITY - OR AT LEAST PROVIDING A CLIMATE IN
WHICH IT CAN FLOURISH- TO WHITLAM, WHO VIEWS THE ARTS
AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE MORE NATIONALISTIC
AUSTRALIA HE SEEKS; CONSIDERS THIS ONE OF WHITLAM'S
MAJOR DOMESTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

25. ZORZA (WP) NOTES DISAGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF NVN
OFFENSIVE; SOME PUT IT IN DECEMBER AT THE EARLIEST,
OTHERS AS LATE AS 1975. NVA SAID TO BE TOO WEAK
IN SOME KEY STRATEGIC AREAS WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE
TO HOLD IN ORDER TO CLAIM SUCCESS. ASSERTS THAT
INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT AN ADVERSARY'S
CAPABILITY FROM VISIBLE FACTS, BUT AN ENEMY'S
INTENTIONS MUST BE DIVINED BY POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE,
BECAUSE DECISIONS ARE MADE BY POLITICAL LEADERS.
OBSERVES THAT DEBATE IS NOW GOING ON AMONG HANOI
DOVES AND HAWKS ABOUT COURSE OF ACTION, REACHING
POINT WHERE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL TROUBLES AND HIS
ABILITY TO RESPOND TO A CHALLENGE IN VN HAVE EMERGED
AS AN ISSUE IN HANOI PRESS. NOTING THAT NVN STRATEGIC
DOCTRINE DICTATES THAT THE FINAL OFFENSIVE SHOULD BE
LAUNCHED ONLY WHEN THE ENEMY IS IN POLITICAL DISARRAY,
ZORZA SAYS FROM HANOI VIEWPOINT THE STATE OF THE
NIXON ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEM TO FULFILL THAT
CONDITION AND THOSE WHO FAVOR ACTION NOW WOULD
ARGUE THAT TO WAIT IS TO LET THE BEST OPPORTUNITY
SLIP BY. ASSERTS THERE IS NOT MUCH MR. NIXON CAN
DO TO STRENGTHEN THE HANOI DOVES. HANOI WANTS TO
FORCE SAIGON TO COMPLY WITH POLITICAL PROVISIONS
OF THE ACCORD HAN negotiated; IF HE DOES NOT, HANOI
WILL ITSELF USE FORCE, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

26. CSM'S DE MIRAVAL IN PARIS NOTES PUBLICATION
OF BOOK ABOUT JEAN PASQUALINI ENTITLED "PRISONER
OF MAO," AS BACKDROP TO HIS SCHEDULED US TV APPEARANCE.
PASQUALINI WAS BORN IN PEKING, SON OF A CHINESE

MOTHER AND A CORSICAN ADVENTURER IN THE FRENCH ARMY.
HE WAS REARED IN MISSION SCHOOLS, LEARNED FOUR LANGUAGES,
AND EVENTUALLY BECAME AN INTERPRETER FOR WESTERN
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS; SENTENCED TO FORCED LABOR CAMPS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 213990

IN 1957 AS A DANGEROUS COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY, HE WAS

RELEASED IN 1964 WHEN SINO-FRENCH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WERE ESTABLISHED. PASQUALINI IS NOW A RESEARCHER
FOR NEWSWEEK IN PARIS AND TEACHES CHINESE IN HIS
SPARE TIME. HIS WORK AND FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF
CHINA INVOLVES FREQUENT VISITS TO THE CHINESE
EMBASSY. HE IS AMUSED TO OBSERVE THAT THE AMBASSADOR
TAKES HIS WEEKLY TURN AT VACUUMING EMBASSY CARPETS
PLUS REGULAR STINTS WORKING ON THE EMBASSY'S PIG FARM
AT VERSAILLES.
KISSINGER

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCTOBER 30, 1973 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON INFO BANGKOK
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